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April 29, 1904

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Report from Manila—Quarantinable diseases—Cholera in the provinces—Interisland maritime quarantine to be abolished.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, March 12, as follows:

During the week ended March 5, 1904, the quarantinable diseases reported in Manila were as follows:

	Cases.	Deaths.
Cholera.....	1	0
Smallpox	0	2
Plague		

Interisland maritime quarantine.

In my report for the previous week, the fact was mentioned that in a reply to an inquiry from the board of health, it was stated that it was considered desirable to abolish interisland maritime quarantine in the Philippines at other than ports of entry, and giving the circumstances under which it was deemed advisable. I have now to transmit a copy of a resolution passed by the board of health, from which it will be seen that action was taken in accordance with the above recommendation.

Fumigation of vessels.

The value of fumigating vessels with sulphur is now becoming generally recognized by the shipping interests, and, from being a measure that at the outset was evaded whenever possible, is now requested in many instances. The comfort of the traveling public has been greatly increased by the fumigation, which has resulted in ridding the inter-island and other vessels of vermin, to say nothing of the effect it undoubtedly has had in preventing the spread of quarantinable diseases throughout the islands and to the United States.

There were no vessels cleared for United States ports during the week.

[Inclosure.]

Extract from proceedings of the board of health for the Philippine Islands, March 2, 1904.

* * * * *

The matter of delaying the Philippine coastwise vessels by quarantine at various insular ports, having been brought before the board and discussed, on motion

"Resolved, That interinsular quarantine is no longer necessary and is hereby abolished, except at duly authorized ports of entry, and in the case where the vessels entering ports come from ports which have been declared infected by the insular board of health."

* * * * *

Official extract furnished all presidents of provincial boards of health for their information and guidance.

A true extract.

FREDERICK R. RYAN,
Chief Clerk, Board of Health.

A true copy.

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Passed Assistant Surgeon,
Chief Quarantine Officer for the Philippine Islands.